

Church Work.

CONFERENCE NOTES.

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NOTES FROM THE INDIANA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

The 7th session of the Indiana Ministerial Association was held in North Manchester, Dec. 27 and 28. The attendance of ministers was rather small because several of the ministers of the state were engaged in revivals and a number were absent for other reasons. But all who were present felt that it pays to hold such meetings.

It is this contact with each other that brings culture and this comparing of ideas that gives to one the benefit of the experience of all. There was a good attendance of the laity of the church and the meeting was a treat for them likewise.

The first day addresses were given by D. V. Yoder, W. W. Summers and C. F. Yoder, and the evening was devoted to a sermon by C. F. Yoder. The second evening L. W. Ditch gave us a very excellent sermon on "The Mission of the Church." The remainder of the program was given to the discussion of various practical questions relative to ministerial work, a few points from which may not be out of place.

How and when to select a Text, was first discussed and the prevailing opinion in regard to time as formed from observation and personal experience seemed to be, the sooner the better. In the selection, the characteristics of the congregation, the occasion, the weather and the ability and general knowledge of the minister are all to be considered. Keep a note book and be on the lookout for illustrations and make a note of any happy thought or incident. Above all learn to be led by the Spirit. Advantages and disadvantages of extemporaneous preaching, was next discussed pro and con. Good thoughts were presented on both sides but the preacher who reads his sermons has to suffer considerable and the sentiment predominated that while thought and style are both to be considered, yet to get the truth into the hearts of the people is the primary object. Let style be cultivated by writing for the

paper and in other ways. Let not the habit of being extemporaneous cause lack of preparation. Inspiration should not preclude perspiration. The pastor amidst the flock was next taken up and the necessity of pastoral work insisted upon by all. Among other benefits the following were noted:

To be a pastor means to be a shepherd; and the shepherd must not only feed the flocks but care for the sick and wayward as well.

It strengthens the bond of sympathy between pastor and people, causing greater love and respect on either part and increases the influence of the pastor.

By so doing the pastor can know the home environment of each member, find out their temptations, their weak points, their errors, perhaps in belief; in short, their every need and so will better know what he ought to preach.

Many private lessons can be given and private talks with the unconverted be secured which were otherwise impossible.

An enthusiasm for the church is stimulated and the power of personality is brought into play as it can be in no other way. Many interesting points were given and experiences related which space forbids to relate.

W. C. Perry gave a very instructive talk on how to secure and preserve the voice for the pulpit. To secure a good voice,—

1st, Secure good health; 2nd, find out your weaknesses; 3rd, use the Will in remedying these; 4th, use the voice in conversation as you would in public speaking; 5th, to think forcibly and accurately will strengthen the voice; 6th, judicious singing and reading aloud give practice to the voice.

To preserve the voice.—1st, Preserve the general health; 2nd, do not unnaturally use the voice; 3rd, do not expose the voice when not using it; 4th, do not wear wool about the neck; 5th, do not drink while speaking; 6th, the muscles of the throat can be strengthened by regularly each morning throwing cold water against it and then rubbing vigorously with a towel; 7th, breathing fully and deeply will add volume to the voice.

Suggestions on this subject were added by others. Young people's work was taken up and the mutual relations of pastor and society was discussed by ministers and young people. The state organization K. C. of C. E. uniting the societies of the state was discussed and endorsed.

The subjects, Plagiarism and who should conduct the revival,—the pastor or evangelist, were omitted and will be taken up at the next meeting which will be held in Warsaw, beginning Tuesday of the last week of June next. The meetings will be held yearly hereafter. The names of Geo. R. Beardslee, A. R. Bemenderfer and C. F.

Yoder were added to the list of members and those of D. C. Christner and Esther L. Dickey stricken off. The committee on program for next year was appointed as follows: C. F. Yoder, W. C. Perry, D. V. Yoder.

The following officers were elected: Pres, A. R. Bemenderfer, Vice Pres, John M. Fox, Sec, C. F. Yoder, Treas, L. W. Ditch, Critic, W. C. Perry.

The program for the next meeting will be published in the EVANGELIST in due time. Let all the ministers and as many others as possible keep the date of the meeting in mind and prepare for it. In this brief epitome only a glimpse of the good things of the association can be secured. The inspiration of personal acquaintance, the zeal aroused for the common cause, these cannot be related in words or gotten by proxy.

C. F. YODER, Sec.

Book and Tract Department.

THE TENDENCY TO SUBSTITUTE THE FALSE FOR THE TRUE.

From the time Cain rejected the smile of the Almighty and went his own rebellious way until the present day of false worship and anti-gospel method, man seems to have had a tendency to substitute the false for the true. God made man upright but he has sought out many inventions. The sons of Aaron offered strange fire unto the Lord; Naaman preferred the waters of his own country to those of the Jordan. But the fire the Lord kindled was the fire to use, and Naaman must dip in the Jordan.

Among the things substituted for Christ about Christmas times is a myth called Santa Clause. Examine the literature prepared for Sunday School use and a vast amount is taken up with this subject. The result is the minds of the children are filled with that which has no existence, and Christ is lost sight of. If the time, efforts and money, used in advocating Santa Clause were used in placing Christ before the minds and in the hearts of the children previous to and during Christmas times, how much more would they know of Christ and be impressed for future use in the church.

When it comes to churches, they substitute what is considered more convenient for that which is acknowledged primitive and true. One preacher in my hearing, a D. D. at that, said that sprinkling was more decent than immersion, just as though Jesus Christ commanded an indecent practice. A man like that needs to be doctored; he is sick. What he don't know would make a mighty big book. Those are the chaps that bring in the substitutes; they